

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 00863 092051Z

73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

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P 092029Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4432

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 0863

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, EFIN, AR

SUBJECT: MONDELLI ECONOMIC TEAM

REF: BUENOS AIRES 825

1. AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT MADE TO PRESS THAT RICARDO ARRIAZU WAS TO REPLACE GUIDO DITELLA AS SECRETARY OF PLANNING AND COORDINATION, ARRIAZU, AS IT TURNED OUT, REFUSED TO ACCEPT POSITION. ARRIAZU HAS BEEN IN CHILE ON ECLA GRANT AND RETURNED TO BUENOS AIRES FEB 5 FOR DISCUSSION WITH MONDELLI, BUT REFUSED TO ACCEPT JOB. OTHER SECRETARIES REPORTED REFTEL HAVE TAKEN OFFICE BUT NO REPLACEMENT CANDIDATE FOR ARRIAZU YET ANNOUNCED.

2. REACTION TO MONDELLI IN PRESS CONTINUES UNENTHUSIASTIC AND MANY SOURCES HAVE TOLD EMBASSY HE IS SIMPLY ANOTHER SHORT-TERM, INTERIM MINISTER. ON THE OTHER HAND BANKING AND BUSINESS SOURCES REGARD MONDELLI AS GENERALLY CONSERVATIVE IN THINKING AND WOULD FOLLOW CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES IF HE HAD THE POLITICAL BACKING. CONSENSUS IS, HOWEVER, THAT HE LACKS POLITICAL BASE, AS EMBASSY REPORTED PREVIOUSLY, AND IS UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN THE SUPPORT HE WOULD NEED.
HILL

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